/Mauritius

المجلس الاسلامي
Islamic Council

4 June 1984

H E Mr Gian Nath
Mauritius High Commission
32/33 Elvaston Place
London SW7

Excellency,

The Islamic Council is deeply concerned about the apprehensions and feelings of insecurity of the Muslim minority community of Mauritius caused by the threatening statements made by Prime Minister Jugnauth after the general elections last August. According to reports, Prime Minister Jugnauth said that "Muslims should expect nothing from this government and should pay the price for not having supported it". Moreover, on 20 March 1984, Prime Minister Jugnauth is reported to have told the legislative assembly that the government intended to enact one family law applicable to all, thus depriving the Muslim community of its right to the Islamic Family Law - a right which it has enjoyed for decades.

This threat by the Prime Minister is causing great agitation in the Muslim community, which considers it an assault on its religion. You will appreciate that such statements are bound to lead to discrimination, harassment and victimisation. Indeed, this seems to be already happening. Such events and such an atmosphere cannot but adversely affect the friendly relations and cooperation between the Islamic world and Mauritius.

We would, therefore, request you to kindly convey our concern to your government and use your good offices to restore the confidence of the Muslim community and to safeguard their rights as equal citizens of Mauritius.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

16 Grosvenor Crescent London SW1 7EP Telephone 01-235 9832 Telex 894240 Islami G Cables ISLAMIAH